Geneva Area City Board of Education  
August 16, 2017

The Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District met in regular session at 7:00 p.m., August 16, 2017, in the High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by President Brashear.

Roll Call: Present: Mr. Arndt, Mr. Brashear, Mr. Dana, Ms. Fisher, Mrs. Wilt, Superintendent Kujala, and Treasurer Lillie

Absent: None

Visitors & Guests: Administrative Assistant Horvath; Principals Doherty, Gustin, and Wetherholt; Assistant Principal Markijohn; OAPSE representatives and other citizens

Certification by Treasurer of Compliance with Meeting Requirements Rules

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Brashear led the Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence

Mr. Kujala presented a thank-you note from the Platt R. Spencer Historical Society and All-Classes Reunion Committee thanking Michael Penzenik, Eric Kujala, Mary Zappitelli and Sally Fisher for all they have done for the Society.

Agenda Modification

One agenda modification was made.

Hearing of Public

No one was heard

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wilt moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, to approve the minutes of the regular session on July 19, 2017, as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Wilt. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilt, to approve the July, 2017 financial report as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Wilt, and Arndt. Motion carried.

Approval of Invoices

Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Arndt, to approve the July, 2017 invoices as paid and listed by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Dana, Fisher, Wilt, Arndt and Brashear. Motion carried.
Informational Items – Current Investments (see addendum file)

Donation: $50 from Diana Cameron of Geneva, OH to the Spirit of Geneva Scholarship Fund in memory of Joel Novak

Legislative Report

Ms. Fisher noted that she usually reports on the activities at the state level, but today she has some information at the federal level. In March, she reported that states were required to put together a plan for the ESSA or Every Student Succeeds Act. The plan needed to address standards and assessments of both students and teachers and school and district accountability. This program gives greater flexibility and decision-making power to the state rather than the U.S. Department of Education. On July 19th the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee passed the FY18 Labor, Health and Human Services Education and Related Agencies funding measure by a party line vote of 28-22. This legislation cuts education funding by $2.4 billion. The majority of the funding cuts, $2.0 billion, are to Title II, Part A of ESSA. This pertains to the “Preparing, Training and Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals or other school leaders. The entire Part A is eliminated. Amendments were offered to restore these items, but they were defeated along party lines.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B grants to states saw an increase of $200 million over FY2017 levels, while Career and Technical Education (CTE) state grants along with Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) State Assessment grants are at the same levels as FY2017. The legislation does not include a provision to fund the Trump Administration’s school of choice initiative. The administration’s budget request to Congress included the creation of a new Furthering Options for Children to Unlock Success (FOCUS) grant program which would have diverted money from public schools to non-public schools. There is no word yet as to when the House may consider the committee’s appropriations measure.

On the state level, when the biennial budget was passed at the end of June, the process of overriding vetoes continued, with a deadline of December 31, 2018. Ohio education groups have weighed in on several of them, asking their members to speak with their local legislators about these veto overrides. One of the issues the Governor vetoed was relief for school districts that were highly reliant on tangible personal property tax revenue. The relief would limit the loss to 3.5% of the district’s total resources. The Governor’s rationale is that the local districts can easily overcome the loss of the TPP payments locally. We have certainly found that that is not the case.
One of the other issues is giving schools the option of using paper and pencil tests as opposed to computer-based exams. Many districts are having a difficult time transitioning to the electronic capability necessary to take the state tests electronically as mandated by state law.

A-Tech Report

There was no report

Report of the Superintendent

Opening Day/Upcoming Changes

Mr. Kujala provided a brief update on opening day activities and upcoming changes in the District. A new Geneva website will be released in September/October once details are completed. He hopes that this becomes a resource that is used by more parents and community members. The District will have a new “Instant Connect” system that will be hosted by the same company as our website. This was a savings in the overall cost for this service. The system will provide emergency alerts, notifications, and voice message reminders for our schools and district.

Mr. Kujala informed the Board that the Opening Day Agenda was attached to his update. This year, the focus will be on “A New Start”! The GI’s will start off the day, and he is really looking forward to their performance. Another attachment provides a list of staff that has been newly hired, changed positions, or have a name change. The only two new staff members are the two principals that were introduced at the last two meetings.

Mr. Kujala also wanted to share some information with the Board to get their thoughts regarding a senior parking project. The project has been proposed by Mr. Wetherholt, but Mr. Kujala wanted to get additional input from the Board since it will involve District property. This project would allow seniors, and possibly juniors, to claim a reserved parking spot and paint it. At the end of the school year, students would be required to paint the entire parking spot white. The project would serve as a fundraiser for the senior class.

This year, GHS is looking to update their Pep Assemblies to make them more student led and include assemblies for all sports seasons. In addition, the Honor Wall has been started to recognize student athletes who have placed at state competition or qualified for state competition. The High School is also looking at some potential ideas to honor the numerous academic achievements of current and past Geneva students.
SPIRE Update

The Board began discussion on the current tax issue involving SPIRE/Roni Lee LLC and potential Board action. Mr. Brashear made sure every Board member had a copy of the SPIRE Board/Roni Lee LLC 8/11/17 Response to the Geneva Area City Board of Education Proposal from 7/19/17. The Board reviewed the proposal changes. Mr. Arndt questioned the second item wondering why we would limit ourselves according to the current usage agreement. Mr. Lillie tried to clarify that we weren’t being limited by the current agreement, as we were adding swimming and indoor track, but SPIRE just wanted to make sure the Board wasn’t looking to expand the usage beyond what we are currently doing there with each sport. Mr. Dana noted that nothing has been paid by SPIRE at this point, even though the Board requested a payment be made by August 15th. Mr. Kujala explained that there was a plan worked out with the County Treasurer for a payment before the end of September. Mr. Arndt said he was still concerned with the language referring to the current usage agreement, and Mr. Dana and Mr. Arndt wanted to know where the payment was.

Several Board members asked how negotiations were going on a new usage agreement. Mr. Kujala and Mr. Lillie explained that no meetings were scheduled yet because it was their impression that the overall agreement needed to be approved before we would begin hammering out the new usage agreement. Ms. Fisher said she was upset that we were even seeing another counterproposal from Mr. Clutter, as she thought the Board’s last proposal should have been the end of discussions. She wasn’t happy that every time we send a proposal to SPIRE, it comes back with more changes. Mr. Dana noted that he wished to reverse his previous vote on a proposal and made a motion to rescind the Board’s prior proposal to SPIRE/Roni Lee LLC and consider a proposal at the next meeting after we see a new usage agreement. After additional discussion, Mr. Arndt seconded Mr. Dana’s motion. Mrs. Wilt asked if the Board could take a short recess so she could attempt to draft some language changes to the proposal that would be more acceptable. Mr. Brashear agreed and said the Board would recess at 8:23 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. When the Board returned, Mr. Dana reminded the Board that there was a motion and a second on the table and called for a vote. Mr. Brashear requested a roll call. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Arndt and Dana. NO: Wilt and Brashear. Motion carried.

NEOLA

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mrs. Wilt moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to accept the following revised Policy for Board adoption:

Policy 2464  Gifted Education and Identification

Roll Call: YES: Wilt, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried
The following revised Policies were enclosed for the Board’s review:

3217 4217 7217

**Ohio Coalition for Equity & Adequacy**

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilt, that the Board renew its membership in the Ohio Coalition for Equity & Adequacy of School Funding for the 2017-2018 school year at a cost of $1,193.00 (Regular dues: October 2016 ADM (2,386) x $.50 = $1,193.00).

Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Wilt. Motion carried.

**S. Fisher to Attend OSBA Conference**

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Arndt, approval for Sarah L. Fisher to attend the Ohio School Boards Association 2017 Capital Conference November 12th to 14th in Columbus. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Wilt, and Arndt. ABSTAIN: Fisher. Motion carried.

**UH Geneva Agreement**

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilt, approval of the attached agreement between University Hospitals Geneva Medical Center and Geneva Schools for athletic trainer services for the 2017-2018 school year. This agreement would replace the agreement from May 25, 2017. Mr. Dana noted that he had a professional relationship with UH/Geneva, so he would refrain from the vote. A question was asked as to what happened with Dr. Seeds and the trainer we had been using. Mr. Kujala explained that we still had Dr. Seeds and the same trainer, but they would just be providing the services through this agreement with UH/Geneva. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Wilt, Arndt and Brashear. ABSTAIN: Dana. Motion carried.

**Ashtabula Co. Ent. Zone Tax**

The Ashtabula County Convention & Visitors Bureau is seeking an Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive of 60% for 10 years to move their office to 2241 State Route 45, Austinburg. Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mrs. Wilt moved, seconded by Mr. Arndt, that the Board authorize the Superintendent to draft a letter to the Ashtabula County Commissioners that the Board is not opposed to this Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive. Mr. Lillie noted that he met with Mark Winchell, Executive Director of the Ashtabula County 503 Corp, and Greg Myers, Executive Director for Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County, on Wednesday, August 9th at their request to discuss an application for enterprise zone tax incentives. While the County doesn’t need school Board approval for a 60% for 10 years abatement, they wanted to be proactive by reaching out to the Board to discuss an abatement before taking action. This particular abatement would involve moving the Ashtabula County Visitors Bureau from its current location on Austinburg Road stuck between two motels to a more...
visible location at the intersection of State Route 45 and Interstate 90 at the former Kranauer’s BP. Without a tax abatement, the lease would be cost-prohibitive, and the project would not move forward. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Wilt, Arndt, Brashear, and Dana. Motion carried.

2017-2018 Personnel

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mrs. Wilt moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, the following personnel actions for the 2017-2018 contract year:

a. FMLA:

Stella J. Andrusis, Secretary, leave of absence from 09/25/17 through 10/10/17. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Rachel M. Blevins, Tutor, leave of absence from 08/23/17 through 10/12/17. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Theresa M. Grimmett, Bus Driver/Cafeteria Worker, intermittent leave of absence beginning 08/24/17. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

b. Resignation

Amy M. Kennerknecht, Teacher

c. Employment Agreement and Change of Contract

Approval of the employment agreement changing the contract for Roy L. Jones, Elementary Guidance Counselor, from full-time to part-time, 2 days/week, 81 days/year, along with accompanying terms and conditions of employment.

d. Change of Contract

Kaysha Estvanik, from Tutor, Middle School, hours-to-be assigned to full-time Teacher, Cork Elementary, effective 8/23/17

Brenda L. Cork, from Bus Driver, Bus Garage, 5 hrs./day, 9 mos./year to Housekeeper, Geneva Platt R. Spencer, 7 hrs./day, 12 mos./year, effective 08/01/17
e. **Temporary Contract**

Cherie Yuhas, Housekeeper, High School, 7 hrs./day, effective 07/31/17

f. The hiring of the following personnel, on a one-year contract, to be paid according to the adopted wage guidelines, subject to meeting certification requirements of the State of Ohio, as well as a satisfactory physical examination, background check and/or other training, if applicable.

1) **Teacher**

   Brianne L. Avsec, Elementary Guidance Counselor, 3 days/week, 108 days/year

2) **Tutor - Hours-to-be-assigned (Contingent upon funding)**

   Krista N. Blake

3) **SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT – one-year contract**
   (In accordance with Section 3319.08 ORC)

   **Extended Service**
   
   Brianne L. Avsec……………………….3 days
   Roy L. Jones…………………………….2 days

4) **Extra-Curricular**

   Anne C. Markijohn - 9th Grade Class Sponsor

5) **Housekeeper**

   Anne P. Hayes, Middle School, 7 hrs./day, 10.5 mos./year, effective 08/01/17

6) **Substitute Teacher**

   Marilyn Craine
   Kerry Gerken
   Ronald L. Grant
   Richard M. Grubaugh
   Christi L. Shimmels
   Lisa K. Schira
   Elizabeth A. Wood
7) **Adult Substitute Secretary and Educational Assistant**

Jennifer A. Borcicky
Sarah L. Dunbar
Teresa A. George
Lisa D. Prouty
Pegi J. Shupska

8) **Substitute Housekeeper**

Jennifer A. Borcicky
Sarah L. Dunbar

9) **Activity Workers**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craig Austin</td>
<td>Jeff Hull</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rochelle Austin</td>
<td>Walter Lininger</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Barbo</td>
<td>Anne Markijohn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Carroll</td>
<td>Debbie Mayle</td>
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<td>Devin Cerjan (stu)</td>
<td>Corrie Newhart</td>
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<td>Michele DiGiacomo</td>
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<td>Abby Dragon (stu)</td>
<td>Brian O’Dell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brad Ellis</td>
<td>Kanda O’Dell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Ellis</td>
<td>Nancy Patterson</td>
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<td>Brian George</td>
<td>Keith Webb</td>
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<td>Isabella George (stu)</td>
<td>Randy Woodworth</td>
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<td>Jessica George</td>
<td>David Yost</td>
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<td>Les Harold</td>
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Roll Call: YES: Wilt, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

**Volunteer Coaches**

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Arndt, approval of the following volunteer coaches for the 2017-2018 school year:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Corlew</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Blevins</td>
<td>Cheerleading</td>
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Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Wilt. Motion carried.

**Other**

Mr. Kujala wanted to set up additional informational meetings for the Geneva Area City Schools Income Tax Levy. Meetings were scheduled for the following locations at this time:

- **Tuesday, August 29th** GHS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, September 7th** Austinburg Elem. Gym 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, September 13th** Cork Elem. Gym 7:00 p.m.

The idea will be to get the word out and get as many people to these meetings as possible.
Mr. Arndt reported that the Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commission distributed information to school buildings letting them know that for any household having someone who served in the military, they may be entitled to a program to assist them with school supplies and/or clothing. Please contact the Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commission at 440-964-8324 for an appointment.

Executive Session

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, that the Board hold an executive session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee or official.

Went into executive session at 8:46 p.m.
Returned from executive session at 9:07 p.m.

Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Wilt, and Arndt. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mrs. Wilt, to adjourn the regular session at 9:08 p.m. Roll Call: YES: Dana, Fisher, Wilt, Arndt, and Brashear. Motion carried.

The foregoing is a true and accurate record of the minutes and proceedings of the regular session held by the Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District on August 16, 2017.